

Remarks

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are currently pending in this application. By this response, applicants amend claim 12 and cancel claims 1-9 and 11. Therefore, claims 12-20 are presented to the Examiner for consideration.

The Examiner had previously indicated that claims 16-20 are allowed. Further, he indicated that claims 12-15 would be allowed if rewritten so as not to depend on a rejected claim. Claim 12 has been amended as an independent claim. Claims 1-9 and 11 have been canceled. Applicants note that cancellation of the subject claims is merely to expedite prosecution of this application to allowance and should not be construed as acquiescence to the outstanding rejections.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that the claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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